



MARYLAND

Gang Intervention and Prevention Resource



Gang Activity Leads To A Dead End

A Message from Governor Martin O'Malley

Gang violence, activity and membership have become an unfortunate reality in Maryland – but it doesn't have to stay that way. Addressing these issues requires collaboration with key partners in the criminal justice community.



That is why in 2008 the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services partnered with the Department of Juvenile Services, Maryland State Police, Baltimore City and Baltimore County Police, bringing together over 70 law enforcement and criminal justice stakeholders from around the State to tackle Maryland's growing issue of gang violence.

Through this process we collectively identified problem areas in Maryland's approach to combating gangs and worked with our statewide partners to identify strategic goals and solutions.

One of the many results of this collaboration was this Gang Intervention and Prevention Resource brochure. It is intended to provide communities and families with the information, resources and contacts necessary to identify gang activity and help make a difference.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin O'Malley". The signature is stylized and cursive.

What is a Gang?

According to Maryland Law, a criminal gang is a group of three or more persons that form to engage in criminal activities for the purpose of monetary gain or to create an atmosphere of fear and whose members have a common identifying sign, symbol or name. Gangs have also been referred to as “crews”, “sets” and “cliques”.

- Maryland Gang Prosecution Act of 2007

State of Maryland Gang Intervention and Prevention Resource Information

For more information please contact
the Governor's Office of Crime Control
and Prevention: 410-821-2828

Why do Gangs Form?

There are many reasons why individuals, especially our youth, are interested in joining a gang and why they stay involved in gang activities. Gang involvement often leads to problems in school, stress in relationships or trouble with the law. Here are a few of the reasons they become involved in gang activity:

POWER: in being connected to a group that has a strong identity and that is recognized by others; feeling important; feeling tough.

PRIDE: in being accepted into a “second family”; feelings of entitlement; sense of purpose and accomplishment.

PRESTIGE: in being respected by rank according to status in the gang; promises of money and influence; feeling valuable and important.

PEER PRESSURE: in being bullied by a gang or in being initiated into a gang; protection; excitement surrounding peer activities.

Warning Signs of Possible Gang Activity

“Red flags” for gang activity. Below are a few signs to look for:

- Changes in attitude, behavior, style of dress, friends, taste in music, etc.
- Shows an interest in a gang/admits to being in a gang.
- Has unexplained physical injuries/fighting related bruises.
- Has unexplained cash or goods, such as clothes/jewelry, cell phones.
- Carries a weapon/uses unusual hand signals.
- Displays an unusual desire for secrecy.
- Places gang symbols on school books, clothes, walls, etc.
- Has a gang symbol tattoo.
- Breaks rules, skips school, gets arrested.

How Can I Protect My Child from a Gang?

Parents and guardians are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the local gang symbols and to seek help early by contacting community resources for information/support. There are a couple of basic things you can do every day that may help prevent your child from joining a gang:

- Be a positive role model. Every day!
- Set realistic goals and limits for your children, be consistent and enforce the limits you set.
- Show your children how to set goals, to hold high standards and how to prepare for a positive future.
- Praise your children for doing well and encourage them to do their very best. Celebrate your children’s successes.
- Know your children’s friends and their families. Do things together. Talk regularly.
- Get involved in your children’s education and activities.
- Teach your children how to have good study habits and encourage them to stay in school.
- Talk to your children about positive ways to cope with peer pressure and how to use non-violent ways to resolve conflict.
- Talk to your children about the dangers and consequences of gang involvement.
- Tell your children that you disapprove of gangs and you don’t want to see them hurt or arrested.
- Show your children that you and other parents are working together against gangs by participating in community organizations.

For further assistance, see the resources listed on the following pages.

Recognizing the Signs of a Gang

There are numerous gangs throughout the State of Maryland. Some examples of how to recognize signs from the most common gangs are listed below:

Bloods

Originally from Los Angeles. 
Colors: Red, Black, Brown and Pink.
Signs: B's up, C's down; MOB-Member of Blood; Branded dots; #5; Five pointed star.

Crips

Originally from Los Angeles. 
Colors: Blue, Gray, Orange and Purple.
Signs: Six pointed star; C's up; B's down; B's crossed out; Blue beads; Pitchfork up.

MS-13

Originally from Los Angeles. 
Colors: Blue and White.
Signs: Blue and black bandanas; #13; Mi Vida Loco; Devil's hand.

Latin Kings (LK)

A Chicago based gang. 
Colors: Black and Gold.
Signs: Three or five pointed crown; Yellow and black bandanas.

Dead Man Incorporated (DMI)

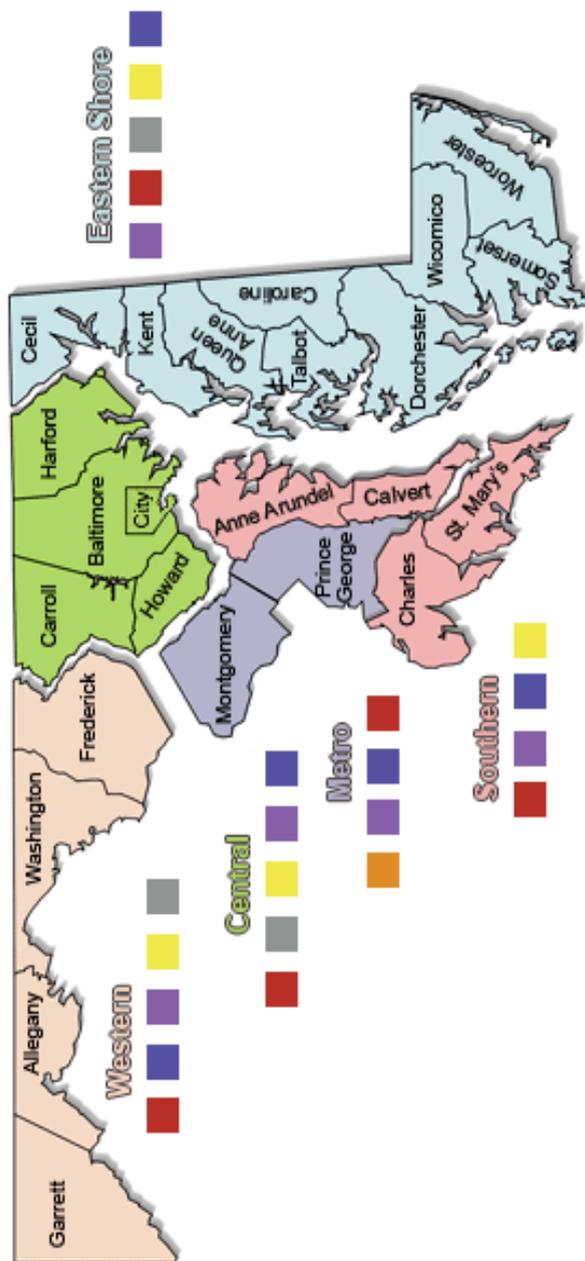
An adult prison system gang composed of Caucasian males, which got its roots from the Black Guerrilla Family. 
Colors: Black and White.
Signs: The Grim Reaper; Numbers 4,13,9; Pyramid with the all seeing eye.

Black Guerrilla Family (BGF)

An adult prison system gang who are beginning to surface and recruit within many local Maryland communities. 
Colors: Black and Silver.
Signs: Silver Back Gorilla; Numbers 2,7,6; Shot gun; the X, the Dragon.

There are other gangs across the state such as Hate Groups, Motorcycle Gangs, as well as Prison Gangs that are affecting our communities and families. Their "Signs" and "Colors" are ever changing.

Confirmed Gang Activity in Maryland



Gangs affect all Marylanders, no county nor region is immune. Statistics provided by the Maryland State Police and the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services indicate that specific gangs have existed in the past or currently exist in the defined Regions.

National and International Evidence-Based Programs

When a community decides to develop its own strategy, it is helpful to review national and international models. There are common threads among all of the evidence based programs below. Studying what has worked is important when developing a new intervention/prevention program. There is no “one size fits all”. Research of several local programs such as Baltimore’s Operation Safe Streets, Get Out of the Game, and the Violence Prevention Program at University of Maryland’s Shock Trauma Center has revealed those common threads.

Chicago Ceasefire (Chicago, IL)

Multi-step collaboration of local agencies, community groups, and civic leaders to target reducing violence through an eight point plan.

866-862-3273

www.ceasefireillinois.org

The Safer Communities Approach – National Crime Prevention Strategy (Canada)

A multi-step collaborative initiative involving the identification of community problems, development of action plans, implementation of action plans, and monitoring and evaluating programs.

877-302-6272

www.publicsafety.gc.ca/prg/cp/ncps-eng.aspx

Operation Ceasefire/The Boston Gun Project (Boston, MA)

A multi-step initiative that brought collaboration across federal, state, and local agencies highlighting crime patterns, enforcement, intervention, and measuring effectiveness of initiatives.

800-851-3420

www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles/nij/188741.pdf

PeaceBuilders (Long Beach, CA)

Created for young children, pre-teens and teens, PeaceBuilders addresses risk factors which predict violence, bullying and drug and tobacco use. Participation in PeaceBuilders reduces aggression, promotes language development, teaches social skills, increases parenting skills, creates inclusion for special needs children and fosters safer communities.

877-473-2236

www.peacebuilders.com

Local Programs

Operation Safe Streets

Operated by the Baltimore City Health Department, this program targets at-risk male and female youth, ages 14-25. Modeled after Chicago’s Ceasefire program, it is based on five core components: community coalition building, street outreach to at risk youth, public education, clergy involvement, and law enforcement collaboration.

443-984-3566

www.baltimorehealth.org/safestreeets

A Friend of a Friend

A mentoring project at the Maryland Correctional Training Center, Hagerstown, Friend of a Friend, utilizes a conflict resolution curriculum. Designed for people in correctional facilities, its purpose is to help participants learn non-violent ways to deal with conflict and to build positive relationships through mentorship.

410-323-7200

www.afsc.org

Get Out of the Game-Baltimore City Police Department

A referral program for 14 to 24 year olds who are at high risk and involved with the criminal justice system.

Hotline: 443-984-7217

Violence Prevention Program (VPP)

The VPP, located at the University of Maryland's Shock Trauma Center, is designed to reduce the risk factors leading to violent and criminal activity. The fundamental goals of this program are: 1) to teach non-violent means of communication and conflict resolution; 2) to assist individuals with developing and reaching personal goals; 3) to offer new experiences that inspire positive thinking, creative expression, and plans for the future; 4) to make solid referrals that strengthen ongoing community support; 5) to give participants opportunities to practice new skills; and 6) to educate others about the dynamics of violence. VPP is an evidence-based program that has been operational for 10 yrs.

410-706-0550

www.umm.edu/shocktrauma/vip.htm

Intervention/Prevention Programs

D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education)

D.A.R.E. is a drug abuse and violence prevention program that uses uniformed police officers to present information to children in the classroom environment providing resistance skills and building resiliency. D.A.R.E. is a community based program that links law enforcement, schools and parents in a partnership for children.

www.dpscs.state.md.us/aboutdpscs/pct/

G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education and Training)

The G.R.E.A.T. program is a school-based, law enforcement officer-instructed classroom curriculum that helps students develop skills to avoid delinquent behavior and violence to solve problems. The curriculum also includes participation from the student's family members.

www.great-online.org

Helping America's Youth

This organization helps communities assess their needs, identify their resources, and build partnerships. It also helps communities select program designs that can be replicated and that will provide the best type of services for them.

www.helpingamericasyouth.gov

John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Center for Prevention and Early Intervention

This program provides resource information as a public service. It also brings together multiple organizations, agencies, community groups, and institutions to address the issue of violence.

www.jhsph.edu/PreventYouthViolence/

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs (OJJDP)

Gang Prevention/Intervention Programs

This site includes a wealth of information on specific programs designed to address gang and delinquency problems.

www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov

Boys and Girls Club

The "Gang Intervention Through Targeted Outreach" program is a community wide gang intervention initiative that targets gang members and offers alternatives to the gang lifestyle and involvement.

www.bgca.org

Statewide Government Agencies

Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention

Provides a list of grants available to Maryland jurisdictions to combat gangs.

www.goccp.org

Maryland Community Services Locator (MDCSL)

The MDCSL, operated by the Center for Substance Abuse Research, is an interactive website with an online directory that includes more than 2,200 services. These resources relate to the needs of juvenile services, mental health and substance abuse services.

www.mdcs1.org

Maryland Attorney General's Office

Criminal Division, Gang Unit

410-576-6380

www.oag.state.md.us

Maryland Department of Juvenile Services

Gang Intelligence Unit

410-480-7841

www.djs.state.md.us

Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Division of Correction Intelligence Coordinating Unit

www.dpscs.state.md.us

Maryland Gangs/Information and Prevention

This is a website developed by the University of Maryland offering a citizen's guide to gangs, specific gang locations in Maryland and resources which offer help with youth prevention.

www.gangs.umd.edu

Maryland Youth Crisis Hotline

800-422-0009

Statewide Fusion and Information Centers

The Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC) was established as a model facility for the analysis and dissemination of information in statewide support of law enforcement, public health and welfare, public safety and homeland security. The Citizens of Maryland can also use it as a centralized location to forward any "Tips" on suspected gang and criminal activity.

Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC)

Baltimore, Maryland

www.mcac-md.gov
1-800-492-TIPS (8477)

Regional Information Centers

Located throughout the state, these centers act independently, but also in cooperation with the MCAC. The centers allow citizens to call or electronically leave "tips" on suspected gang and criminal activity. Information will be processed and subsequently referred to the respective law enforcement agency that would have jurisdiction.

Southern Maryland Information Center (SMIC)

Hughesville, Maryland

www.smictf.com

1-888-713-7171

Eastern Shore Information Center (ESIC)

Salisbury, Maryland

esic@esic-md.org

1-877-917-9191

Western Maryland Information Center (WMIC)

Frederick, Maryland

wmic@fredco-md.net

1-866-969-WMIC (9642)

Local Management Boards

Local Management Boards (LMB's) are composed of public and private community representatives who share the responsibility for implementing a community-based, interagency, family-focused service delivery system for children, youth and families in each local jurisdiction in Maryland. The LMB for each jurisdiction in Maryland is listed below.

Central Region

BALTIMORE CITY

Family League of Baltimore City

2700 N. Charles Street

Baltimore, MD 21218

410-662-5500

Baltimore City Health Department

Drug Treatment

410-637-1900

Mental Health

410-837-2647

Baltimore City Police Department Gang Unit

410-396-2640

888-223-0033

Baltimore City Public School Police Investigation Unit
410-396-8590

Crisis Response - adult 410-433-5175
Crisis Response - children/adolescence 410-752-2272
First Call for Help 410-685-0525
Crime Prevention 410-396-2525

Baltimore Substance Abuse Systems, Inc. (BSAS)
Sets the direction, standards, and priorities for the City's comprehensive system of innovative programs making progress toward restoring the health of people and communities ravaged by substance abuse.
410-637-1900
www.bsasinc.org

BALTIMORE COUNTY

Baltimore County Local Management Board
6401 York Road
Baltimore, MD 21212 410-887-4255

Baltimore County Health Department
6401 York Road
Baltimore, MD 21212
Bureau of Substance Abuse 410-887-3828
Crisis Hotline 410-931-2214

Baltimore County Police Department
Gang TIPS Line 410-823-0785

Grassroots Crisis Intervention 410-531-6677

CARROLL COUNTY

Carroll County Local Management Board
10 Distillery Drive
Westminster, MD 21157 410-386-3600

HARFORD COUNTY

Harford County Local Management Board
134 Industry Lane
Forest Hill, MD 21050 410-638-3166

Harford County Health Department
120 South Hays Street
Bel Air, MD 21014
Addictions Services 410-638-3076

HOWARD COUNTY

Howard County Local Children's Board
3300 N. Ridge Road
Ellicott City, MD 21043 410-313-1940

Howard County Health Department
7178 Columbia Gateway Drive
Columbia, MD 21046
General Information 410-313-6300
Addiction Services 410-313-6202

Howard County Police Department
Intelligence Office 410-313-3687

Western Region

ALLEGANY COUNTY

Local Management Board of Allegany County
28 Virginia Avenue
Cumberland, MD 21503 301-777-2008
www.lmb.allconet.org

Allegany County Health Department
Willowbrook Road
Cumberland, MD 21501
Addiction Services 301-759-5050
Mental Health 301-759-5280
www.alleganyhealthdept.com

FREDERICK COUNTY

Frederick County Office for Children and Families
520 N. Market Street
Frederick, MD 21701 301-600-3533
www.co.frederick.md.us/ocf

Frederick County Health Department
350 Monteverde Lane
Frederick, MD 21702 301-600-4786
Substance Abuse Services - adult 301-600-1775
Substance Abuse Services - adolescence 301-600-3293

Frederick County Hotline 301-662-2255

GARRETT COUNTY

Garrett County Partnership for Children and Families

12423 Garrett Highway
Oakland, MD 21550 301-334-1189
www.garrettpartnership.org

Garrett County Health Department

1025 Memorial Drive
Oakland, MD 21550 301-334-7777
Substance Abuse Services 301-334-7670
Mental Health Services 301-334-7680
www.garretthealth.org

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Washington County Community Partnership for Children and Families

33 W. Washington Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740 240-313-2090

Washington County Health Department

1302 Pennsylvania Avenue
Hagerstown, MD 21742 240-313-3200
Substance Abuse Services - adult 240-313-3310
Substance Abuse Services - adolescence
240-313-3314
www.washhealth.org

Washington County Gang Task Force 301-791-3205

Eastern Region

CAROLINE COUNTY

Caroline Human Services Council

317 Carter Avenue
Denton, MD 21629 410-479-4446
www.cchsc.org

Caroline County Health Department

403 South 7th Street
Denton, MD 21629 410-479-8000
Drug and Alcohol Services 410-479-1882
Mental Health 410-479-3800
www.carolinehd.org

CECIL COUNTY

Cecil Partnerships for Children, Youth and Families

110 E. Main Street
Elkton, MD 21921 410-620-0762
www.cecilpartnerships.org

Cecil County Health Department

401 Bow Street
Elkton, MD 21921 410-996-5550
www.cecilcountyhealth.org

DORCHESTER COUNTY

Dorchester County Local Management Board

502 Court Lane
Cambridge, MD 21613 410-228-0281

Dorchester County Health Department

3 Cedar Street
Cambridge, MD 21613 410-228-3223
Drug and Alcohol Services 410-228-7714
Youth and Family Services 410-228-9100
www.dorchesterhealth.org

KENT COUNTY

Local Management Board for Children and Family Services of Kent County

118 N. Cross Street
Chestertown, MD 21620 410-810-2673

Kent County Health Department

125 South Lynchburg Street
Chestertown, MD 21620 410-778-1350
Addiction Services 410-778-2616

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY

Queen Anne's County Community Partnerships for Children and Families

320 Pennsylvania Avenue
Centerville, MD 2167 410-758-6677

Queen Anne's Health Department

206 N. Commerce Street
Centerville, MD 21617 410-758-0720
Addiction Services 410-758-1306

SOMERSET COUNTY

Somerset County Local Management Board

7004 Crisfield Highway
Westover, MD 21871 410-623-2906

Somerset County Health Department

7920 Crisfield Highway
Westover, MD 21871 443-523-1700
Behavioral Health 443-523-1790

TALBOT COUNTY

Talbot Family Network

142 N. Harrison Street
Easton, MD 21601 410-770-6870

Talbot County Health Department

100 South Hanson Street
Easton, MD 21681
General Information 410-819-5600
Addiction Services 410-819-5900

WICOMICO COUNTY

Wicomico Partnership for Families and Children

921 Mt. Hermon Road
Salisbury, MD 21803 410-546-5400
partners@wicomico.org

Wicomico County Health Department

108 East Main Street
Salisbury, MD 21801 410-749-1244
Substance Abuse 410-742-3784
Mental Health 410-334-3497
www.wicomicohealth.org

Life Crisis Center 410-749-4357

WORCESTER COUNTY

Worcester County Initiative to Preserve Families

106 W. Market Street
Snow Hill, MD 21863 410-632-3648
www.worcesterchildren.org

Worcester County Health Department 410-632-1100
www.worcesterhealth.org

Metro Region

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Prince Georges County Commission for Children, Youth, and Families

6420 Allentown Road
Camp Springs, MD 20748 301-265-8446
www.princegeorgescounty.org

Prince Georges County Community Crisis Services

301-864-7095
www.communitycrisis.org

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families

7361 Calhoun Place
Rockville, MD 20855 301-610-0147
www.collaborationcouncil.org

Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, D.C.

301-562-2000
www.bgcgw.org

Montgomery County Crisis Center 240-777-4000

Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County

301-942-7700

Crossroads Youth Opportunity Center 301-422-1270

Health and Human Services 240-777-1245

Mental Health Association 301-424-0656

Montgomery County Hotline 301-738-2255

Southern Region

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Anne Arundel County Local Management Board

1 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401 410-222-7423

Anne Arundel Health Department 410-222-7095
Adult Addictions 410-222-0100
Adolescence Mental Health & Addiction
410-222-6785

CALVERT COUNTY

Calvert County Family Network

30 Duke Street
Prince Frederick, MD 20678 410-414-5998

Calvert County Health Department

975 Solomon's Island Road
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
General Information 410-535-5400
Crisis Intervention 410-535-1121
Teen Line 410-257-2216

CHARLES COUNTY

Charles County Human Services Partnership

6 Garrett Ave
La Plata, MD 20646 301-396-5238

Charles County Health Department

4545 Crain Hwy
White Plains, MD 20695 301-609-6900
Substance Abuse Services 301-609-6600

ST. MARY'S COUNTY

Local Management Board of St. Mary's County

23110 Leonard Hall Drive
Leonardtown, MD 20650 301-475-4200

Waldon Crisis Hotline

Substance Abuse 301-863-6661

While we have attempted to provide an inclusive list of resources to assist you, we are aware that there are many others that were not available at the time of this printing.

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This is the second version of the
Maryland Gang Intervention and Prevention Resource

Previous versions:

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Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

